

Stamford Innovation Week: Cultivating Unexpected Opportunities for Growth

Stamford, Conn (August 20, 2018)—The region's most enterprising minds will gather at venues across the city September 13-23, 2018, for Stamford Innovation Week (SiW), an event series designed to connect entrepreneurs, tech talent and investors and create unexpected opportunities for growth.

The week kicks off with CT Next's EIA Award Ceremony, the launch of "Spark.Innovate.Move"—SiW's official beer—a cryo-powder pale ale by Half Full Brewery, a large-scale video art installation by Danger Gallery, and the "soft launch" of drone pizza delivery by Pieology.

SiW's themes follow three main tracks: entrepreneurs and start-ups, innovations in food and beverage, and finance and fintech and networking. Topics include: corporate sustainability; blockchain technology; cryptocurrency; smart cities; fintech; pitch competitions; augmented reality; autonomous vehicles; and digital media, among others.

"Stamford Innovation Week will be a celebration of the area's entrepreneurial ecosystem," says Jonathan Winkel, SiW Founder and managing partner of SquareWheel, a Stamford marketing agency, and chair of Stamford's Economic Development Commission. "The intent is to bring disparate groups together to cultivate relationships that spark new ideas and result in new businesses."

SiW's line-up comprises more than 100 events including conferences, panels, speakers, open houses, networking, and after-hours socializing with live music at local pubs and restaurants. Notable sponsors and participants include: NatWest Markets, Deloitte, NBC Sports, People's Bank, CT Innovations and McCarter English.

Headlining events include:

- CT Next - EIA Pitch Competition and Award Ceremony with \$40,000 in prizes
- Keynote Speaker Nikki Mamuric, founder & CEO of Sprout Innovation Co., on "The Innovation Within" at the Entrepreneurs Symposium
- Blockchain technology conference featuring Nick Spanos, sponsored by Blockhive Technologies.
- Frontier industry luncheon series by UCONN's Werth Institute of Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Topics are: blockchain, VR/AR, AI, autonomous vehicles, smart cities
- Blockchain networking event co-produced by Citi Group and Checkmate Digital

The week's capstone event is the Entrepreneurs Symposium, with over 50 expert-led sessions covering aspects of business from marketing to fundraising, development to networking, and more. Notable speakers include Senior Director of Search and Biddable Media at MARC USA, John Kagan, Author and Life Coach Tracy Fox, and Independent Macro Investing Consultant & Founder of Strata Analytics, Matt Garrett.

During the symposium's keynote address, "The Innovation Within," Nikki Mamuric, founder and CEO of Sprout Innovation Co., will discuss her own journey with innovation, from big CPG companies, like Procter & Gamble, to starting her own innovation ecosystem, as well as how to expedite innovation from within — by looking at current technologies, current questions, creating a culture of innovation, and even innovating ourselves. "Small businesses are quickly becoming the backbone of this economy, and it's important for industry leaders and institutions to support their growth and development," says Mamuric. "I am honored to be this year's keynote and to be able to impart some of what I learned on my journey from Fortune 500 companies to starting my own business."

SiW sponsors include NatWest Markets, NBC Sports, People's Bank, JP Morgan Chase, Robinson+Cole, McCarter English, CT Innovations, Bankwell, Insperity, WHIPgroup, LandmarkPrint, City of Stamford Office of Economic Development, World Affairs Forum, and Bartlett Arboretum. Partners include Deloitte, CT Next, UCONN, The Werth Institute of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Stamford Downtown, Carmody Law, Belpointe, The Ferguson Library, Stamford Town Center, Crashcode, Franklin Street Works, Blockhive Squarewheel, Innovate Stamford and encaptiv.

For tickets and full schedule of events visit: www.SiWeek.org. Many events are free and open to the public; others range from \$10 to \$125.

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